# APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DECODING VARIABLE LENGTH CODE

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for decoding a variable length code, wherein a user can set a variable length decoding table, are provided. The apparatus comprises a pre-decoding unit, a shifter, first through M-th look-up table address registers, selector, a memory controller, a memory, and a memory searcher. To decode a variable length coded data bitstream in units of 3 bits, a LOC information table can be prepared based on a variable length coding table. The LOC information table comprises LOC information bits and node types. LOC information bits for each node type are expressed using four formats A, B, C, and D to express the characteristic of a branch generated during 3-bit decoding, each of the formats A, B, C, and D having a digital value of 2 bits. The pre-decoding unit comprises a first pre-decoder and a second pre-decoder. One of the first pre-decoder and the second pre-decoder is selected according to the characteristic of a code of an input data bitstream.